

About Our Ancestors

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Brevoort Family

BREVOORTS take their name from their old world home in Holland—Bredevort, or Broadford, a broad ford.

In like manner the familiar English name, Bradford, had its origin, a very familiar name, of course, in annals of our country.

Hendrick, or Hendricus, or plain Henry, Jansen van Brevoort may be called upon to give an account of his ancestry. He is founder of one American branch.

We can go back one generation and say that his father was John. Hendricus Jansen means "Henry son of John," does it not?

The family lived near or at, a broad ford of a river, and thus assumed the name Bredevort.

Amersfort, a town in Holland, was one home of the family and it is suggested that the attraction this country had for the settler here came from the name Amers-

fort, which is now part of the city of Brooklyn, N. Y. This has been suggested. More likely, perhaps, is it that Amersfort, Brooklyn, owes its name to the colonist, Hendricus van Brevoort. It was here that he made his first home, later, moving over to New York, where he could find many kindred spirits—old Dutch families.

The Brevoorts lost no time in showing their sturdy spirit of industry and frugality and soon, or within a generation or two, became important factors in their new home.

It was along after the middle of the seventeenth century that Hendricus came here. Within a few years "van" disappeared from his name and he was plain Henry Brevoort. A son, Hendrick, probably came with him for he is mentioned as married to Mary Cowenhoven in 1699, or near that date. The Cowenhovens are another prominent family, originally from Holland, and settlers in Brooklyn. Hendrick and

Mary (Cowenhoven) Brevoort had a daughter, Maria. We next hear of a second marriage of the Colonial ancestor. He took a second plunge into matrimony and Jacomyritje Boke was the bride. Several children were born; one, Hendricus, or Henry, of the second generation, is looked to by descendants, as furnishing colonial service, for he was Assistant Alderman, of New York City, for several years. He also had the rank of Ensign and was a signer of a paper, dated New York, September 12, 1737, demanding the resignation, or removal, of the Sheriff of New York.

Henry, son of the Alderman, married in 1739, Catharine Delamaitre, and their family numbered eight sons and daughters. One of the sons, Henry, born in 1747, married Sarah Whitten. Their home was just outside of the city then—now, in the lower down-town portion. It was called the Brevoort estate.

With the Whitten family comes a connection with the Todds, a family founded here by Adam Todd, born in Scotland. He married here Sarah Cox. Their daughter, Margaret, married Captain William Whitten and it was their daughter, Sarah, who became the wife of Henry Brevoort, in 1778.

The Whittens were from Devonshire, England. Each of these families has record as outstanding patriots during the days of '76.

Interesting records of the Bre-

voorts are given in "History of New York," by Martha Lamb, published over 30 years ago; also in genealogies of the related families of Roome, Todd and Navarre and History of Harlem, N. Y., by Riker.

From published records of the Navarre family we learn much of interest and can give a King of France place on a "tree." At least, it sounds that way!

We can go forwards, or back-



Brevoort

wards, with the Navarres, and all along we find hosts of families, all familiar English—or American families, who have connection with this noted lineage. Among families listed in the Navarre genealogy are the familiar names Grant, Hamlin, Kearny, Duval, Godfroy, Livingston, Hall, Miller, Tucker, Stirling and Brevoorts.

The more we glean ancestral items in the book the more interested we become. It should be

mentioned that the compiler was Christian Denissen, pastor, of Detroit, Michigan.

Robert Navarre, born in 1709, at Brittany, France, was sent to this country, by his government, as Royal Notary, to Fort Pontchartrain, Detroit, Michigan. He came in 1730, and four years later, married Mary Lootman dit Barrois, who was 15 years old at the time of her marriage. She was the daughter of Francis and Mary Ann (Sauvage) Lootman dit Barrois. He was a descendant of Anthony of Bourbon and wife, Jahe d'Albret, heiress of Navarre, who were married in 1548.

The large Navarre family in this country with allied members, claim the same ancestry, the noble house of Bourbons, of France. Anthony of Bourbon, Count of Vendome, became King of Navarre in 1554. His son, Henry III, of Navarre, was Henry IV, of France.

Robert Navarre, Royal Notary, of Fort Pontchartrain, had a granddaughter, Mary Catharine Navarre, born at Detroit. She married Henry Bergaw Brevoort, son of Henry and Esther (Bergaw) Brevoort and Eliza Ann Navarre married John van de Coort Brevoort. All along it can be seen that Navarres and Brevoorts were liable to make matrimonial alliances. While Navarres and Brevoorts named daughters Mary Ann, or Eliza Ann, more favored names in the families were Felice, Philomena, Melanie and Apollonia.

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